

## House Republican Press Release

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### Legislative Committee Considers Rep. Winkler Legislation To Ease Property Tax Burden



The Legislature's Planning and Development Committee, today reviewed legislation introduced by **State Rep.**

**Lenny Winkler**, R-Groton, that could ease the property tax burden in communities throughout Connecticut. As part of its public hearing, the committee reviewed Senate Bill 535, An Act Authorizing The Phase-In Of Property Tax Assessments And Extending The Time For

Revaluations, which contains an initiative introduced by Rep. Winkler that would allow the state to grant certain municipalities a waiver to delay mandatory property tax revaluation. Currently, municipalities are required to conduct statistical property tax revaluations every 5 years and physical property tax revaluations every 10 years.

The proposed legislation would require the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to develop criteria that would only grant such a waiver to cities and towns that can demonstrate they are well managed and fiscally responsible.

"While we continue to see proposals regarding property tax reform, this legislation may represent the most practical way to ease the burden of property taxes in a number of communities," said Rep. Winkler, a longtime member of the Legislature's tax-writing, Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. "In the past, the Legislature had granted such exemptions on a piecemeal basis to municipalities, some of which later proved to be masking serious financial difficulties. However, by developing criteria to only grant waivers to cities and towns that can demonstrate they are well managed and fiscally responsible, it would represent a good start toward helping thousands of taxpayers throughout the state deal with high property taxes."